THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). No review of the performance of private airlines has been undertaken. However, with a view to ensure regular and dependable air transport service in the domestic sector, a review of the policy framework is under consideration.

(d) Induction of additional capacity and expansion of infrastructure for airlines operations are on-going processes.

Issue of Identity Cards to Construction Workers

3065. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken decision recently to introduce identity cards to the construction workers;

(b) if so, whether such provision is proposed to be made mandatory for the employers of the construction workers in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the other measures proposed to be adopted for the welfare of the construction workers, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 (27 of 1996) has come into force w.e.f. o1.03.1996. Under Section 12 of the said Act every building worker between the age of 18 and 60 years engaged in construction work for not less than 90 days during the preceding 12 months shall be eligible for registration as a beneficiary. Section 13 of the said Act makes it mandatory for the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Boards constituted by the State Governments to issue identity cards to every beneficiary registered under the Act.

(d) The Act provides for hours of work, overtime wages, sufficient supply of wholesome drinking water, latrines and urinals, temporary living accommodation at or near the work site, maintenance of creches, canteens and first-aid facility. In addition, the Welfare Fund Boards may provide for immediate assistance in case of accident, old age pension, housing loans, group insurance, childrens' education, sickness and maternity benefits etc.

Automatic Telephone Exchanges

3066. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of automatic telephone exchanges in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of non-automatic telephone exchanges and the period required to convert them into automatic exchanges; and

(c) the capability of the country in developing and producing its own automatic exchanges, the annual production and investments made so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The information is enclosed in the statement-I.

(b) All exchanges in the country are automatic except a few manual trunk exchanges.

(c) India has capability to develop and produce its own automatic exchanges. The information regarding production and investment is enclosed in the statement-II.

STATEMENT-I

No. of Automatic Telephone Exchanges in the Country as on 30.9.96, State-wise

Sl. No.	Name of State	Nos.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2066
2.	Assam	287
3.	Bihar	790
4.	Delhi	127
5.	Gujarat	1397
6.	Haryana	750
7.	Himachal Pradesh	549
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	223
9.	Karnataka	2037
10.	Kerala	768
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2664
12.	Maharashtra (Including Mumbai & Goa)	2609
13.	North Eastern Region (Including Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur)	232
14.	Orissa	713
15.	Punjab	856
16.	Rajasthan	1453
17.	Tamil Nadu (Including Chennai)	1414
18.	Uttar Pradesh	1734
19.	West Bengal (Including Calcutta, Sikkim and Andaman Nicobar)	659
	Total	21328